

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 SNM-02

DEAE-00 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 /042 W

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R 251040Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7328

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 10150

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJ: PUBLIC STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN, PNCB

1. EMBASSY IS QUOTING BELOW A GOP PRESS INFORMATION RELEASE SUMMARIZING A PAK RADIO INTERVIEW OF SAHIBZADA RAOOF ALI, NEW CHAIRMAN OF PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD. THE STATEMENT IS OF INTEREST AS THE FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT OF MR. RAOOF ALI'S VIEWS ON NARCOTICS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. ALL TIME HIGH NARCOTICS SEIZURES: PLANS FOR REHABILITATION OF ADDICTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF POPPY GROWING AREAS - RAWALPINDI, OCT. 13: VARIOUS MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF NARCOTICS LAWS HAVE YIELDED HANDSOME DIVIDENDS, SAID SAHIBZADA RAOOF ALI, CHAIRMAN OF THE PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD IN AN INTERVIEW BROADCAST FROM RADIO PAKISTAN THIS MORNING.

HE SAID THE SEIZURES OF NARCOTICS MADE DURING THE LAST 18 MONTHS HAVE HIT AN ALL-TIME HIGH RECORD.

THE QUANTITY OF CHARAS SEIZED DURING 1973 REGISTERED A SIX-FOLD INCREASE AS COMPARED TO THAT OF THE PRECEDING YEAR WHEREAS SEIZURES OF ILLICIT OPIUM INCREASED BY ALMOST
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100 PERCENT DURING THIS PERIOD, HE CONTINUED.

DURING THE CURRENT YEAR, THE TEMPO OF WORK HAS FURTHER ACCELERATED AND THE SEIZURES OF OPIUM MADE DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE CURRENT YEAR ALONE HAVE EXCEEDED THE FIGURES FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR 1973, HE ADDED.

THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT THE SEIZED CHARAS IS DESTROYED, BUT OPIUM IS HANDED OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT OPIUM FACTORY FOR PROCESSING. THIS FACTORY THEN ISSUES IT TO LICENSED PHARMACISTS, ETC., FOR MEDICINAL USE.

HE SAID THE BRITISH VIEWED OPIUM AS A SOURCE OF GOVERNMENT REVENUE ALONE, BUT THE POLICY OF THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT REGARDING PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF OPIUM IS ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT. THE POLICY OF PAKISTAN IN THIS REGARD IS GUIDED BY HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS AIMS AT THE EVENTUAL REHABILITATION OF THE ADDICTS.

SAHIBZADA RAOOF ALI SAID THAT UNDER THE U.N. SINGLE CONVENTION OF 1961, ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE OBLIGED TO RESTRICT THE USE OF OPIUM EXCLUSIVELY FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES BY 1979.

IN ORDER TO MEET ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS EFFECTIVELY AND KEEPING IN VIEW THE GROWING MENACE OF NARCOTICS THE WORLD OVER, THE GOVERNMENT RECONSTITUTED THE PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD IN MARCH LAST YEAR.

REHABILITATION OF ADDICTS:

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO ESTABLISH FIVE CLINICS - AT KARACHI, LAHORE, RAWALPINDI, PESHAWAR AND QUETTA - FOR THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF THE ADDICTS. BESIDES, IT IS ALSO PROPOSED TO SET-UP REGISTRATION CENTRES UNDER THE DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICERS IN EVERY DISTRICT FOR REGISTRATION OF THE ADDICTS.

CONTINUING, THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY SENT ABROAD SIX DOCTORS FOR A FOUR-MONTH TRAINING IN THE LATEST TECHNIQUES OF THE TREATMENT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ADDICTS.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS:

THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT THE BOARD IS ALSO BUSY IN FORMULATING PLANS FOR THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF POPPY GROWING AREAS. THE PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THESE AREAS MAY INCLUDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND INCENTIVES FOR POPPY GROWERS TO CHANGE OVER

TO OTHER CROPS AND ACTIVITIES. UNDER THE COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, IT IS PROPOSED TO ESTABLISH COTTAGE
INDUSTRIES, CONSTRUCT LINK ROADS AND IMPROVE WATER
RESOURCES, FORESTS AND RANGE LANDS, MR. RAOOF ADDED.

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT WITH A VIEW TO APPRISING THE
PEOPLE OF THE HAZARDS OF NARCOTICS ADDICTION, THE BOARD
HAS ALSO CHALKED OUT AN INTENSIVE PROGRAM OF PUBLIC
EDUCATION FOR CREATING THE NECESSARY MOTIVATION IN THE
VARIOUS RELATED SECTORS. END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, SPEECHES, DRUG SEIZURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ISLAMA10150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740308-0406
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741017/aaaaantm.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 NOV 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <08-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUBLIC STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN, PNCCB
TAGS: SNAR, PK, (ALI, RAOOF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005